

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 23, 2005. Claims 1-3 and 5-18 have been presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 5, 10 and 16 are in independent form. Claims 4 and 19 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 16 and 17 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 3, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 18 have been amended as to matters of form only. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The canceled claims will not be further addressed herein.

The specification has been amended to conform the Summary of Invention section to the amended claims.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-7 and 16-19 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Since as discussed below these claims have been so amended, they are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 8, 9, 14 and 15 also were objected to on the ground that they are directed to programs per se rather than computer readable recording mediums embodying computer instructions causing a computer to perform the claimed method.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraphs 5-7 of the Office Action. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to delete the reference to “on real space”

on line 5, and to change “in real space” to --in the real space-- on line 11. Claim 1 also has been amended to delete the reference to “in three-dimensional space” on line 3, and to replace the phrase “the user’s instruction” with --a user’s instruction-- on lines 15-16. Similar amendments have been made with respect to Claims 5 and 16.

Claims 3 and 18 have been re-written in the alternative. Further, with respect to Claims 8, 9, 14 and 15, independent Claims 8 and 14 have been re-written to recite computer program products comprising a computer readable medium storing computer program code for performing the information processing method according to Claims 5 and 10, respectively.

It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, as well as the objection to Claims 8, 9, 14 and 15 based on the informalities noted in paragraph 7 of the Office Action, and their withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Consolidated Manipulation of Virtual and Real Objects, September 1997, Proceedings of the ACM symposium on Virtual reality software and technology, pages 133-138 (Kitamura).

Claim 10 is directed to an information processing method for changing the position and orientation of a virtual object in mixed reality space obtained by combining a real image and a virtual image. The method includes the steps of obtaining a constraining shape from a plurality of positions in real space designated by a user using an operating unit capable of obtaining three-dimensional positional information, changing the

position and orientation of the virtual object according to instructions from the user, based on the obtained constraining shape as constraint conditions, and combining an image of the virtual object generated according to the changed position and orientation, and the real image, to obtain a mixed reality image.

Among other notable features of Claim 10 is obtaining a constraining shape from a plurality of positions in real space designated by a user using an operating unit capable of obtaining three-dimensional positional information. By virtue of the structure recited in Claim 10, a constraining condition for operating a virtual object in a mixed reality space is obtained.

Applicants have found nothing in Kitamura that would teach or disclose the step of obtaining a constraining shape from a plurality of positions in real space designated by a user using an operating unit capable of obtaining three-dimensional positional information, as recited in Claim 10. The Office Action cites section 2 of Kitamura as disclosing this feature of Claim 10. Applicants disagree. The cited passage merely discusses, among other things, using conventional modeling software after measuring the size or length of a real object by hand to construct a shape representation of the real object in a computer system. However, the constraining shape recited in Claim 10 is not equivalent to an operated virtual object. Rather, Claim 10 is directed to obtaining a constraining shape that is different from the shape of a virtual object. Therefore, Kitamura fails to teach or suggest “obtaining a constraining shape from a plurality of positions in real space designated by a user using an operating unit capable of obtaining three-dimensional positional information,” as recited in Claim 10.

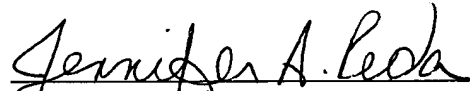
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 10.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable continued examination of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer A. Reda
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 57,840

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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